

8 November 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: CS SENIOR SEMINAR -- Interview with CI Staff/Research
and Analysis Officers: [redacted]

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[redacted] (30 October 1968)

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1. I opened the interview with a prepared, succinct exposition of the origin and nature of the CS Senior Seminar proposal, a brief summary of the modification in concept and substance prompted by the Division and Staff responses to the initial draft proposal (which, I noted, was not prepared by OTR), and a request for further comments, and, specifically, identification of "vital, current CS problems" for discussion at the Seminar.

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2. [redacted] has long had an extremely active and positive attitude toward training matters, and the reaction to the Senior Seminar was no exception. [redacted] Chief, [redacted] and spokesman for the group, welcomed the idea of a Seminar, and suggested some alternative approaches as possibilities. For example, a group of selected people could constitute a "Seminar in Residence," charged with the study of well-defined, specific problems. Such a Seminar might work a year on the articulation of new strategies and approaches. The Seminar would continue, outliving the assignment of its members. It could publish monographs, studies, and bibliographies from time to time. Its papers should not be produced by individuals with parochial points to make or axes to grind. Rather, they should be products of the Seminar.

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3. [redacted] appeared resigned to the likelihood that such an approach might not be adopted. In regard to the type of Seminar currently proposed, he recommended that there be the most careful and clearest delineation of aims and topics to be discussed. The chairman should be a senior official so that there would be a "high deference" factor built into the Seminar. He also suggested that selected retirees might be used as a consultative body on CS problems. Unfortunately, [redacted] felt, the Agency is "cheap" when it comes to these things. Meanwhile, much experience is being lost forever as people retire.

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4. [redacted] noted the following possibly pertinent points (some of which he had made to me previously in regard to the Senior Operations Seminar proposal of some eighteen months ago):

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a. [redacted] think that there should be a course [redacted] 25X1C approach;

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b. [redacted] memorandum on deficiencies in running the Denied Area Seminar should be studied;

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c. [redacted] should be considered as a Seminar site;

d. Strategy, not M/O, should be in the forefront of Seminar concern;

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e. [redacted] who handled the Denied Area Seminar for a time, might have useful tips concerning the running of a Senior Seminar.

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[redacted]
Coordinator,
CS SENIOR SEMINAR

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